

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 NEAE-00 MCT-01 IO-13 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 EUR-12 TRSE-00

DHA-02 ORM-02 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 /131 W
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P 131042Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3706

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGIDISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 1296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, PLO, XF, XI

SUBJ: CONFERENCE SUPPORING PALESTINIANS

REFS: A) TRIPOLI 1221, B) STATE 239957

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SUMMARY: ARAB LABOR CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS

CONDEMN SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON. CONFERENCE ADOPTS PLO RESOLUTIONS DEMANDING SYRIAN CEASEFIRE AND WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON. SYRIANS WALK OUT OF CONFERENCE. LIBYA THREATENS BREAK WITH SYRIA. CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTED BY EGYPTIANS AND LABOR DELEGATIONS FROM 18 ARAB COUNTRIES APPEARS SETBACK FOR SYRIANS. END SUMMARY.

1. ARAB LABOR CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINE REVOLUTION HELD IN TRIPOLI OCTOBER 4-9 HEAPED SCATHING CRITICISM UPON SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON. DELEGATES CALLED FOR SYRIAN HALT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AND ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON. HARSH PLO CRITICISM OF SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON PROVOKED SYRIAN DELEGATION HEAD IZZ AL DIN NASSIR TO WALK OUT OF CONFERENCE IN PROTEST.

2. DURING EMOTIONAL AND LENGTHY ADDRESS, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF CONCERENGE AND PLO DELEGATION HEAD MOHAMMAD ABU ALAYEL CASTIGATED SYRIAN SUPPORT OF RIGHTISTS FORCES "WHEN THEY WERE ON BRINK OF COLLAPSE." HE STATED SYRIA WAS ONLY PAYING LIP SERVICE TO CRITICISM OF SINAI II AGREEMENT, AND THAT SYRIAN POSITION WAS ONLY A COVER FOR ACCEPTING SURRENDER SOLUTION. HE ACCUSED SYRIANS OF BLOCKING IMPLEMENTATION OF JULY 29 PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN AGREEMENT REACHED THROUGH EFFORTS OF LIBYAN PM JALLUD. PLO DELEGATE CALLED FOR AN EMERGENCY SUMMIT OF LIBYA, IRAQ, ALGERIA AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS TO COUNTER SYRIAN AGGRESSION AGSINST PALASTINIANS AND LEBANESE IN LEBANON. HE ALSO MADE OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH WERE ADOPTED BY CONFERENCE: SYRIAN CEASEFIRE, WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON (BAQAA VALLEY AS FIRST STEP), IMPLEMENTATION OF DAMASCUS AGREEMENT OF JULY 29, OPEN BEIRUT-DAMASCUS-TRIPOLI HIGHWAYS AND OTHER PUBLIC ROADS TO PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND CIVILIANS, RELEASE PLO WEAPONS AND PROVISIONS, RELEASE PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE DETAINEES AND CEASE DEPORTATION OF PALESTINIANS FROM SYRIA. PLO SPOKESMAN ALSO DEMANDED SYRIA STOP INTERVENTION IN PLO AFFAIRS AND CEASE SYRIAN PROPAGANDA AGAINST PLO. HE FURTHER CALLED FOR CESSATION OF SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR

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ISOLATIONISTS FORCES, PERSECUTION, TORTURE, AND EXECUTION OF LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY IN BAQAA VALLEY. THE PLO SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT IF SYRIA DID NOT COMPLY WITH AFOREMENTIONED PROPOSALS, SUPPORT PALESTINIANS AND GUARANTEE PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO ARMED STRUGGLE, THEN SYRIA WILL BE OBJECT OF ARAB BOYCOTT BY CONFERENCE MEMBERS WHO WILL ASK OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION.

IN FINAL SESSION DELEGATES VOTED TO ORGANIZE FIVE
MINUTE STRIKE THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD OCTOBER 29 CONDEMNING
SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON.

3. ON OCTOBER 8, DAY AFTER SYRIAN DELEGATION WALKOUT,
THE PLO SPOKESMAN SUBMITTED PROPOSALS EXPELLING
SYRIAN TRADE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, WITHDRAWAL
OF ARAB AMBASSADORS FROM DAMASCUS, AND A BOYCOTT OF
SYRIAN AIRLINES AND SHIPS BY ARAB TRANSPORT
FEDERATION. THESE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED AS
RECOMMENDATIONS BY DELEGATES.

4. ASIDE FROM CABLE SENT TO PRESIDENT ASSADMMCALLING
FOR HALT OF SYRIAN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST
PALESTINIANS AND SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL, CONFEREES SENT
DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS TO MEET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT.
WHILE DELEGATES FROM LIBYA, ALGERIA, MOROCCO,
TUNISIA, KUWAIT, PLO, SOUTH YEMEN, AND SYRIA ATTEMPTED
TO MEET ASSAD, CONFERENCE HELD CONTINUOUS 24-HOUR
SESSION. DELEGATION RETURNED TO TRIPOLI WITHOUT
MEETING ASSAD, BUT DID MEET SYRIAN LABOR LEADERS WHO
SUPPORTED SYRIAN POSITION. IMMEDIATE LIBYAN
REACTION TO FAILURE OF DELEGATION TO MEET ASSAD AND
REJECTION OF CONFERENCE PROPOSALS WAS THREAT TO
WITHDRAWAL OF CHIEF OF RELATIONS OFFICE (AMBASSADOR)
FROM SYRIA.

5. MOST SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR PLO PROPOSALS CAME
FROM EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF MANPOWER AND VOCATIONAL
TRAINING AND ICATU SECRETARY GENERAL ABD AL-LATIF
BALTIYAH. EGYPTIAN DELEGATE REPORTEDLY ALSO MADE
CONCILIATORY REMARKS DESIGNED TO LESSEN TENSIONS
BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT. SPEECH APPEARED TO BE IN
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RESPONSE TO APPEAL MADE BY CONFERENCE DELEGATES FOR
END TO EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS AND
CONCENTRATE ON SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS.

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AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 1296

6. MOST NOTABLE REPRESENTATION OF LEBANESE FACTIONS

WAS LEBANESE PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER

KAMAL JUMBLATT (SEPTTEL). JUMBLATT'S DELEGATION

INCLUDED PARTY DEPUTY LEADER ABBAS KHALAF, POLITICAL

COUNCIL MEMBER WALID MANSUR, AND INFORMATION OFFICER

RIYAD RA'D. SIGNIFICANT DELEGATION AMONG 18 ARAB

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COUNTRIES WAS TUNISIAN REPRESENTED BY MOHAMED SALAH

BEN KADDOUR AND, KHEREDDINE EL SALHI OF TUNISIAN

UGTT, AND KAKHDAR JELIDI OF ELECTRICITY AND GAS FED.

DELEGATES ALSO REPRESENTED ARAB LEAGUE, ARAB LABOR

ORGANIZATION, AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES SOLIDARITY

ORGANIZATION, AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS UNITY ORGANIZATION.

REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF ERITREA, DJIBOUTI, ARABESTAN (IRAN), OMAN, JORDAN AND DHOFAR ALSO REPORTEDLY ATTENDED CONFERENCE.

7. ONLY REFERENCE TO U.S. IN FINAL RESOLUTIONS WAS CONDEMNATION OF SINAI AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE DESCRIBED AS "AMERICAN SCHEMES AIMED AT SALE OF ISSUE (ARAB CAUSE), ABORTION OF ARAB REVOLUTION AND PERPETRATION OF AMERICAN IMPERIALIST INFLUENCE IN ARAB AREA." ANOTHER RESOLUTION REAFFIRMED PLO REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINIANS AS THEIR SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSING PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS. RESOLUTION ALSO REJECTED ALL FORMS OF TRUSTEESHIP, CONTAINMENT AND INTERFERENCE IN PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS.

COMMENT: CONFERENCE CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS POLITICAL SUCCESS FOR PLO AND SETBACK FOR SYRIA AS BOTH ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE ARAB LABOR AUDIENCE OF LEGITIMACY OF THEIR ACTIONS IN LEBANON. PLO REPRESENTATIVE'S IMPASSIONED APPEAL MADE POSITIVE IMPACT ON DELEGATES. DEPTH THIS SENTIMENT WILL CLEARLY BE DEMONSTRATED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IN OCTOBER 22 STRIKE PLANNED THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD. EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATION AT A MINISTERIAL LEVEL IMPRESSED ARAB LABOR DELEGATIONS AS HIGHLY VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR PLO. EGYPTIAN PRESENCE ALSO PRESUMABLY PROVIDED OCCASION FOR TALKS ON IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

SYRIAN DELEGATION APPEARED UNPREPARED FOR UNANIMITY OF LABOR FEDERATION DELEGATES IN CONDEMNING SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON. TO EXTENT THAT SENTIMENTS OF LABOR DELEGATES REFLECT THOSE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT AND ARAB WORKERS, THEN SYRIA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN FURTHER ISOLATED FROM BOTH MODERATE AND RADICAL ARAB CAMPS. ANOTHER PROBABLE RESULT
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OF CONFERENCE WILL BE CONCERTED LIBYAN ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE RADICAL CAMP OF IRAQ, ALGERIA AND PLO TO TAKE FURTHER RETALIATORY STEPS AGAINST SYRIA. CONFERENCE HAS REITERATED ATTITUDE OF LIBYA AND OTHERS TOWARD SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON.
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